

transition to Boy Scouts during a ceremony this evening. Each of those boys has earned the Arrow of Light award.

Following this ceremony, the number of boys in Troop 1818 will be 18, which in Jewish tradition corresponds to life. Troop 1818, which is only three years old, has emerged as an important force in the lives of these young boys. Troop 1818 provides opportunities to build lifelong skills and values and to make lasting friendships through weekly activities and a variety of outdoor programs. The boys have a chance to earn merit badges in such diverse areas as engineering, camping, orienteering, nuclear science, and first aid. This past year, boys from Troop 1818 got to learn CPR, build and sleep in a snow igloo, and attend the 100th anniversary National Jamboree with Scouts from around the country and world.

Troop 1818 currently includes Benjy Ackerman, Max Chernys, Jamie Frame, Josh Hone, Casey Lamar, Ezra Lapidus, Levi Meerovich, Josh Rutzick, Sam Rutzick, Ezra Postelnek, Yosef Postelnek, and Zach Watts. These boys have made significant accomplishments over the past year—earning merit badges and multiple rank advancements—which they will receive at their semi-annual Court of Honor this weekend.

Finally, I'd like to also recognize Robert Book, who founded Troop 1818 and currently serves as Committee Chair for Pack 1818. An Eagle Scout himself, Robert is being recognized this weekend for his accomplishments by being presented with the Shofar Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating these scouts and also in thanking the troop leaders, parents and families for their dedication to our youth.

CONGRATULATING MS. BARBARA ALLEN AS A WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S PURPOSE PRIZE

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ms. Barbara Allen on the occasion of being named as a winner of the Purpose Prize. Ms. Allen was selected from over 1,000 applicants for her work raising funds for public school art programs.

The Purpose Prize is an award given by Civic Ventures, a think-tank that focuses on work and social purpose. For the past five years the purpose prize has been given to 10 people, all age 60 and over, who have developed new ways to solve social problems. As individuals who have completed their mid-life careers, the winners of the purpose prize have all shown that social innovation is not the sole province of the young. Civic Ventures considered the Purpose Prize to be not a lifetime achievement award, but an investment in the future of the winner.

Ms. Allen has won this award through her laudable efforts to maintain the arts in public schools. She is the founder and CEO of Fresh Artists, a nonprofit that has raised more than \$100,000 benefiting 272 Philadelphia public schools to the enrichment of over 53,000 children. Fresh Artists utilizes the creativity of our students to achieve the goal of funding the art

programs that can help more students harness their own creativity. The organization invites students in grades K through 12 to donate their artwork to be used in large-scale reproductions. Fresh Artists then collects monetary donations from businesses and organizations who display the artwork in their buildings. The donations are then used to buy art supplies for Philadelphia's most under-resourced public schools. Since its founding in 2008, Fresh Artists has installed nearly 600 reproductions. Barbara Allen's vision and dedication to the arts have provided students with an opportunity to not only have their work displayed, but also to have their work contribute to the purchase of supplies that allow other students to produce further works of art.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Allen on this momentous occasion. Her dedication to the art will ensure that the students of Philadelphia's public schools continue to have access to the supplies that will allow them to fully realize their creative potential.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLIE BURRELL

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of Mr. Charlie Burrell, known internationally as "the Jackie Robinson of classical music" and the "titan of the classical and jazz bass," on the occasion of the celebration of his 90th birthday.

Charlie was born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1922, and raised in Detroit, Michigan. An acclaimed contrabass player, he was one of the first African-American musicians to break the color barrier of a major U.S. symphony. Honored by the Alphonse Robinson African-American Music Association for his invaluable contributions, he has received accolades from his colleagues for having opened the door for other African-American musicians by demonstrating that they did not have to be relegated to stereotypical musical styles.

Charlie began the pursuit of a musical career at an early age at the encouragement of his mother. A chance hearing of a performance of the San Francisco Symphony led to his desire to become the first African-American musician to perform with the company—a dream he would realize twenty-eight years later.

Although a dedicated student of classical music, Charlie and his friends embraced jazz music and practiced it whenever possible. At seventeen, Charlie was even asked to join the Lionel Hampton Big Band, affording him the opportunity to travel the country with some of the jazz greats of the time. Upon graduation from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, then one of the most prestigious music schools in the nation, Charlie saw his classmates move directly into professional symphonies, while he was unable to because of the color of his skin. But that never deterred his resolve to play.

In 1941, he attended the New England Conservatory of Music and then joined the Navy where he was stationed at the Great Lakes

Naval Base outside Chicago. There, he was selected to join the first-ever all-Black Navy band, a recruiting device the Navy developed to encourage African-American enlistment. Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, he attended Wayne State University with an eye towards teaching music in the public schools. At the time of his graduation, he once again faced the challenge of discrimination when was told by the administrator of music for the Detroit School System there would be no African-American music teachers in their schools.

But Charlie continued to pursue his dreams. After he was turned down for auditions with four different companies, he moved to Denver, Colorado, where he worked at Fitzsimons Army Hospital and enrolled in the University of Denver to earn his teaching certificate. He later taught for the Denver Public Schools. A chance meeting with John VanBuskirk, the lead bass player with the Denver Symphony, led to an audition with the company. Charlie broke through the color barrier of the time to become the first African-American musician to join the Denver Symphony Orchestra.

And in 1959, realizing his childhood dream, Charlie Burrell went on to become the first African-American musician to ever play in the San Francisco Symphony. During his five-and-a-half year stay in San Francisco, he also became the first African-American to play with the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Ballet orchestras, and the first African-American professor at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Upon arriving back in Denver, he was hired again by the Denver Symphony Orchestra where he performed for more than thirty years. Whenever top jazz musicians performed in Denver, Charlie was often called on to play with them.

During his lifetime Charlie has mentored and performed with many musicians. He has played with nearly all of the great names in the jazz world: jazz bass great Milt Hinton; jazz stride pianist Fats Waller; Lionel Hampton; jazz trumpeter Clark Terry; bassist Major Holley; and jazz trombonist Al Grey. One of his favorite vocalists was the late Billie Holiday. He is especially proud of his cousin, the renowned pianist George Duke, and his two-time Grammy award-winning niece, jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves, both of whom he taught and mentored.

On a personal note, Charlie played bass in a jazz trio founded by my uncle Al Rose. The Al Rose Trio became the first racially integrated jazz group in Denver, and when my uncle passed, Charlie asked me if he could be my Honorary Uncle—which he is to this day.

Retired from the Denver Symphony Orchestra since 1999, Charlie continues to be an active member of the community, on occasion playing his bass with his Cousin Purnell Steen's swing quartet. A comment he made during a PBS "Special Jazz in Five Points" broadcast best sums up his life, "Music is my great love affair, and, in fact, it is my first, and always has been, my first."

Charlie has been and continues to be an inspiration to musicians young and old all across our country, but we in Denver are incredibly blessed and proud to call him one of our own. I join all my constituents in wishing Charlie a very happy birthday and congratulating him for his lifetime of achievement.